

The Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act for Medical Countermeasures Against COVID-19 (the PREP Act) was amended, and effective on January 28, 2021, to expand the vaccination workforce by permitting registered nurses and licensed vocational nurses with recently expired licenses to administer COVID-19 vaccines in any jurisdiction in which the PREP Act applies.

The PREP Act is a federal law. As such, the Texas Board of Nursing (Board) is not involved in its administration. The following FAQs are intended as a resource to provide useful information to employers, nurses, and the public regarding the applicability of the PREP Act. For additional information, the amendments to the PREP Act can be found here: <https://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/legal/prepact/Pages/COVID-Amendment5.aspx>.

I am a nurse with a retired/ (lapsed) delinquent/inactive license. Can I administer the COVID-19 vaccine? And if so, in what states?

According to the PREP Act, registered nurses and licensed vocational nurses whose licenses expired within the past five years are able to administer COVID-19 vaccines in **any** state, provided the following conditions are met:

1. The nurse held an active license within the past 5 years;
2. The nurse's license is currently in inactive, expired, or (lapsed) delinquent status;
3. The nurse's license was active and in good standing prior to the date it went inactive, expired, or became delinquent (lapsed);
4. The nurse's license was not revoked; surrendered while under suspension, discipline, or investigation by a licensing authority; or surrendered following an arrest;
5. The nurse is not on the List of Excluded Individuals/Entities maintained by the Office of the Inspector General; and
6. The nurse must complete the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 Vaccine Training Modules ([CDC Vaccine Training Modules](#)) and be observed by a currently practicing healthcare professional adequately experienced in vaccination who can confirm the nurse's competency in the preparation and administration of the particular COVID-19 vaccine to be administered.

Is there training that I must complete to provide the vaccine? If so, do I need to send proof of completion to the Board?

A nurse must complete the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 Vaccine Training Modules ([CDC Vaccine Training Modules](#)) and be observed by a currently practicing healthcare professional adequately experienced in vaccination who

can confirm the nurse's competency in the preparation and administration of the particular COVID-19 vaccine to be administered.

The Board DOES NOT require that a nurse's proof of competency be sent to the Board prior to administering the COVID-19 vaccine under the PREP Act. However, Board Staff suggests that a nurse keep a copy of his/her training or competency verification should any questions arise about his/her practice in this role.

I am an employer; how can I ensure that a nurse is able to provide COVID-19 vaccine administration, given the requirements of the PREP Act?

An employer may verify the history of a nursing license in [NURSIS](#) to ensure that a nurse had an active nursing license in good standing that was subsequently placed in retired, inactive, or (lapsed) delinquent status within the last five years.

If a nurse meets the requirements of the PREP Act, how does that affect the nurse's scope of practice?

The PREP Act does not expand a nurse's scope of practice beyond that of the nurse's previously held nursing license; rather, the PREP Act only permits the nurse to provide COVID-19 vaccination administration.

If I meet the terms of the PREP Act, would I be able to provide other nursing care outside of the administration of the COVID-19 vaccination pursuant to the PREP Act's requirements?

The PREP ACT is intended to permit COVID-19 vaccination administration and does not extend to general nursing practice. However, vaccination administration includes the ability of the nurse to monitor and assess patients for any side effects or complications of the vaccine. Therefore, it would be expected that a nurse would monitor, assess, and intervene as necessary should a patient need to be stabilized after the vaccine administration.

I am a nurse who is currently licensed in Texas. Where can I provide COVID-19 vaccinations?

Currently licensed nurses may provide COVID-19 vaccination administration in **any** state or jurisdiction where the PREP Act applies. However, this authority is limited to COVID-19 vaccine administration and does not expand the nurse's scope of practice or extend to general nursing practice.

Where can I find additional information related to the PREP Act?

For additional information and Frequently Asked Questions about the PREP Act visit [HHS press release](#) and [PREP ACT Q&As](#). If you have additional questions after reviewing these resources, please send your inquiry to: webmaster@bon.texas.gov .